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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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- 25X1 1. On 11 August 1953 a number of strangers gathered at the Plaza Cadenas of the University of Habana in Cuba. University students were of the opinion that these persons were BATISTA agents who had been sent to start a riot which would justify police interference in the University. The presence of these persons was one of the reasons why the University Council, which fears that the government is looking for any justification to take over the University, suspended all classes from 12-17 August. The council also banned Federacion Estudiantil Universitaria (FEU) activities until further notice, including a meeting scheduled for 12 August, in the university auditorium, to commemorate the fall of the MACHADO dictatorship and to build up enthusiasm among students to continue the fight against the BATISTA dictatorship.
2. Alvaro BARBA, former president of the FEU, and three other FEU members strongly criticized the local press for its passive attitude toward the present government censorship. On 12 August 1953 the Cuban police arrested Joaquin PELAEZ Canalleda, president of the FEU; Alvaro BARBA, Armando COMESANAS Rendon, Jose HIDALGO Peraza, Fidel GONZALEZ Ruiz, and Alfredo GUEVARA, all leaders of the FEU. Other FEU members avoided arrest by taking refuge in the University of Habana, where, because of the institution's autonomy, the police do not enter. The students of the University, however, are concerned with the new system being used by police to arrest students. Current police tactics involve the forced entrance into a student's home or room at two or three a.m. and manhandling the student under arrest.
3. Although summer classes at the University were completed by 17 August, students from the University and other Habana institutions continued to gather at the University for meetings. However, students are avoiding street demonstrations because the FEU believes that the time has come to replace these demonstrations with revolutionary action.
4. There are many rumors at the University concerning the "revolution" which is going to take place, and in this connection Professor Raul ROA has been mentioned as minister of the new government.

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